## Message Text

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**ACTION NSF-02** 

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-06 ABF-01 FSE-00 AID-05  $/025\,\mathrm{W}$ 

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R 161245Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3516

**UNCLAS TUNIS 5009** 

PASS NSF FOR SELCUK, AID FOR TA/OST/ARNOLD

E.O. 11652: N/TTOO QOC OSCI, TS

SUBJ: NSF/SFCP - ENIT GEOTECHNICAL LABORATORY

1. SHERIF AND ISHIBASHI ARRIVED TUNIS JULY 4 AS SCHEDULED AND HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH ENIT OFFICIALS TO PREPARE LOCATION FOR AND INSTALL RECENTLY ARRIVED EQUIPMENT. CORDIAL AND COLLABORATIVE ATMOSPHERE SEEMS TO PREVAIL, BUT MARAKCHI ANXIOUTLOO SEE SOME SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH BEGIN. ENIT HAS ASSIGNED ONE STUDENT TO BEGIN WORKING WITH SHERIF. HE WILL LIKELY START RESEARCH PROJECT IN TUNIS AND TAKE COURSEWORK AT U. WASHINGTON ON SCHOLARSHIP LEADING TO MASTER'S.

2. EMB AND AID OFFICERS MET WITH SHERIF, MARAKCHI AND MOHAMED LATIRI ON JULY 15 TO DISCUSS ORDERING OF SECOND TRANCHE OF EQUIPMENT. TO COMPLETE ORIGINAL SHERIF LIST (AND JANESEK CONTRACT) WILL REQUIRE 70,000 TD. PRESENTLY AVAILABILITY FOR EQUIPMENT IS 50,000 TD (ENIT 30,000 TD COMPOSED OF 20,000 FROM GOT: 6,100 FROM AID GRANT: 5,400 TRANSFERRED FROM SALARIES COMPONENT OF 1ST YEAR NSF GRANT; AND NSF 20,000 TD NET, PER SHERIF/SELCUK TELECON). AGREED TO POSTPONE ACQUISITION OF DRILLING EQUIPMENT (AVAILABLE LOCALLY ON RENTAL BASIS) THUS REDUCING SECOND TRANCHE ORDER TO 40,500 TD. AGREED THEREFORE TO USE AID COMPONENT FROM ENIT (6,100 TD) TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR LAB BUT NOT INCLUDED IN ORIGINAL CONTRACT, E.G. VACUUM SYSTEM, DE-AIRING AND SATURATION SYSTEM AND VERTICAL COMPRESSION SYSTEM. THESE ARE STOCK ITEMS AND CAN BE ORDERED UNCLASSIFIED

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IMMEDIATELY USING AID DOLLAR FUNDS. DRILLING EQUIPMENT WILL

BE ORDERED SUBSEQUENTLY FROM THIRD YEAR NSF FUNDS.

3. SHERIF AND MOHAMED LATIRI ARE HOPEFUL SECOND TRANCHE ORDER CAN BE PLACED BY SEPTEMBER 1, SO EQUIPMENT CAN ARRIVE TUNIS BEFORE DECEMBER. SHERIF WILL RETURN IN DECEMBER TO INSTALL. SHERIF/MARAKCHI SENDING PROGRESS REPORT/REQUEST FOR FUNDS TO SELCUK IMMEDIATELY. WHEN NSF AUTHROIZES FUNDS FOR EQUIPMENT AS OUTLINED PARA 2, PLEASE ADVISE BY CABLE. MULCAHY

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